

AFRICAN KORA

Journal of artists and intellectuals for children

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FINAL
ISSUE

Day of the African Child

The crusade of a model teenager

By M.S. Diagne
in Dakar, Senegal

Primary school pupils in Senegal, West Africa, have rallied their younger peers, friends and parents for a noble cause: to inculcate civic responsibility and to draw attention to environmental issues and immunization programmes. Their efforts, which are part of an 'Adoption' strategy initiated by UNICEF in cooperation with the education ministry in 1987, have been successful in mobilizing about 40,000

pupils nationwide. Moreover, the programme has played a major role in immunizing about 72,000 babies.

Aminata Diallo, a 13 year-old girl from Kolda, a rural Senegalese town, belongs to this group of conscientious youngsters who are actively involved in the programme. A junior at Ousmane Senghor Primary School, she ranked fifth during the first exam of last year and has been making good progress ever since. She is liked by all her teachers, who are full of praise for her work and character. Even some school inspectors are among her circle of acquaintances and visit her at home. As the champion of the 'Adoption' strategy, she flew across the Atlantic Ocean to New York City last September as part of the delegation accompanying President Diouf to the World Summit for Children.

Like the great majority of young women in Kolda, Aminata knows that the demand on a rural girl's time is heavy and her working day long. Waking up, at 5:00 a.m., she starts by studying school lessons, then she washes the dishes. She takes a bath and later studies the Koran, including the learning of sacred texts and Arabic scripts. As young as she is, the teenager already knows a lot more about the Koran than many adults who live in cities. Her learning of the Koran, according to her uncle, helps to give her a broader understanding of life.

Aminata gets to school at 8 o'clock, where, upon arrival, she chats and plays with her friends. The friendly atmosphere with other teenagers provides an escape from the harsh reali-

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Editor's note AFRICAN KORA to merge with FIRST CALL

This is the last issue of **AFRICAN KORA** in its present format. The journal of artists and intellectuals for children will now be part of **FIRST CALL**, a new UNICEF journal which will commence publication in May 1991. **FIRST CALL** will also incorporate **INTERCOM** and **ACTION FOR CHILDREN**, the NGO Committee on UNICEF publication which will also be discontinued. Their mailing lists will be combined and will reach over 55,000 readers. The new newsletter will be published every two months and will appear in French (as **LES ENFANTS D'ABORD**) and in Spanish (as **LOS NIÑOS PRIMERO**).

Now as ever, we need news from you — news of events, publications, conferences, awards, grants, and especially news of **ACTION** programmes. We especially need to hear from national support groups of artists and intellectuals, parliamentarians, religious leaders and other partners in the Grand Alliance for Children, especially those who do not have publications of their own, who are overcoming problems and doing work they are proud of. We also want letters telling us what you want to read about and things that you feel strongly about.

The new publication will cover child issues and development, and where possible process analysis of successful projects — as requested in

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AFRICAN KORA

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The kora is a famous 36-string musical instrument played by griots.

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EDITORIAL

Keeping the promise

Following the September 1990 World Summit for Children, all who care about the needs of our young people are re-dedicating themselves to the cause. If Africa's children too often face appalling conditions, it is equally true that our continent provides us with extraordinary opportunities to overcome difficulties.

The specific measures to be promoted will vary from country to country and from community to community. They will depend upon local customs and conditions, upon patterns of disease and malnutrition. The actions needed will vary according to geography, politics, history and culture. But everywhere the human application of the resources of medicine and technology will have even better results when stimulated by social mobilization.

As an example of participation, the mobilization of Africa's leaders, religious and educational institutions, artists and intellectuals, women's and youth movements, and mass media is contributing greatly to an increase in public awareness of the importance of primary health care. Furthermore, there is growing recognition that development cannot succeed without the involvement of women as full partners. Their roles as nurturers of their children and families and their dominant contributions to food production and community development have met with increased appreciation, resulting in the gradual incorporation of women into mainstream economic and social programmes.

To achieve the goals articulated by leaders at the World Summit for Children, Africa will require a greater mobilization of people and resources than most other parts of the world. In the 1980s, these efforts centered largely on survival concerns and were often focused around catalytic events. But a more sustained mobilization will be required to attack the underlying causes and effects of many of the continent's problems. Artists and intellectuals need to consider what role they will have in that effort, in unison with other partners in

the Grand Alliance for Child Survival and Development.

Now is the time for artists and intellectuals to repeat the clarion call of the World Summit, that the lives and normal development of children should have "FIRST CALL" on society's concerns and resources. We must bear the message that children and other vulnerable groups need special protection during periods of economic adjustment.

This same principle is embodied in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a document unique in its breadth of universal standards for the survival, protection and development of children. Africa leads the world in the number of states which have ratified the Convention. It is up to our creative and intellectual leaders to play their part in seeing that the Convention is implemented not just in law but in practice in their own countries. The adoption by the OAU in 1990 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child and its designation of the 1990s as the African Decade of Child Survival, Protection and Development provide two specific opportunities for activism by artists, writers, performers and their allies.

The Day of the African Child, to be celebrated in most African nations on 16 June, will be another occasion for artistic and organizational creativity. Following the example of the World Summit, where children were present and participating at every stage, events should be planned in such a way that young people themselves are present and are clearly seen to have a role. National support groups of artists and intellectuals as well as individual communicators, writers, entertainers and sporting personalities will be linking with UNICEF and other partners to ensure that the survival, protection and development of children remains high on the national agenda.

Nor should it be forgotten that by uniting many sectors of society around commonly accepted aims and aspirations, mobilization efforts strengthen a sense of national purpose. A dedication to equity and to the achievement of long-term benefits not only stimulates broad acceptance of mobilizing actions but also provides a solid basis for a wide variety of development initiatives. As the standard-bearers of national culture, artists and intellectuals should be at the forefront of this great alliance!

Children's Summit

The call for support of the World Summit for Children has generated various activities in Africa. A summit staged by children at Teachers' Hall in Accra, Ghana, concluded with the formulation of a charter on child welfare. The event was witnessed by diplomats, politicians, religious leaders, decision makers, parents and children. It gave the young people, 7-14 years old, representing 20 countries, an opportunity to tell their country's story and to make an appeal to the international community.

We are reproducing below the text of the Declaration, which was presented on a scroll to the Ghanaian Head of State.

PREAMBLE

"We the children of the world in Ghana, having participated actively in this Mock World Summit for Children as our contribution to the World Summit for Children have made the following observations:

1. We children suffer most in times of war.
2. Children are often neglected and die mostly from preventable diseases.
3. Quite a number of children will wake up today to face abuse and exploitation.
4. Children are often starved and malnourished.
5. Most children do not receive adequate opportunities for education.
6. The high rate of population growth means high mortality rate, poverty, neglect and inadequate care for us children.
7. Aids and drugs are big threats to our future.
8. We have noted with much appreciation the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child."

DECLARATION

With these facts in mind, we have resolved that:

1. Matters affecting children should be given priority in all national development plans.
2. First and foremost, we urge all nations to put into effect the tenets of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by expeditiously drawing up plans of action for implementation.
3. The health and nutritional status of children should be improved to reduce the mortality rate among children.
4. Educational opportunities should be provided for all children to eliminate illiteracy among children and to prepare them for their vocations.
5. Governments should ensure that children and their families receive the basic facilities and assistance that are vital for the promotion of growth and development, i.e. good sanitation, safe water, child care, recreational facilities, health and education.
6. The safety of children in times of war, droughts and other natural disasters must be given priority attention.
7. Policies should be formulated to protect the environment now so that we children can be assured of a safe world in the future.
8. Family planning should be promoted to ensure healthy children and a world population that can be supported by any available resources.
9. Adequate provision should be made for proper development of disabled children and orphans in all countries.
10. All children worldwide should receive equal opportunities. Race, colour, sex or background should not be the determining factor for the distribution of facilities.
11. With the improvement in the political climate between the East and the West, we call on the interna-

tional community to channel more resources to the promotion of child welfare.

12. Finally, we are appealing to the developed nations to show some love towards children of the developing countries by cancelling debts owed by these countries and increase aid to the Third World to give children an equal chance to develop.

We need to be loved, cared for, and protected at all times. Love is our message and our message is love.

(Source: UNICEF Accra)

Purifying water by a simple solar process*

Researchers at the Brace Research Institute in Quebec, Canada, have collaborated in the development of a low-cost and simple method of purifying small amounts of lightly polluted water by sunlight. The method has important implications for communities in developing countries without safe drinking water supplies. Its application is particularly suited to preparing diarrhoeal rehydration salts to avert child death from dehydration.

The technique involves exposing one to three litres of water to direct sunlight for up to five hours. The water can be put in containers made of clear glass or plastic, or transparent polythene bags.

Field experiments conducted by researchers in Africa, Asia and Latin America by the Brace Institute, together with the Integrated Rural Energy Systems Association, a group of research institutes sponsored by the United Nations University in Tokyo, found that disinfection is most effective when the intensity of solar radiation is at least 500 watts per square metre of surface area. The method does not require specific tempera-

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tures," says Joseph Ayoub, a researcher at the Brace Research Institute. "The purification process is related to ultra violet light intensity."

The technique does not work well with cloudy water, or with water heavily polluted by faecal coliform bacteria or chemicals. But it destroys virtually all of the pathogenic bacteria present in the lightly polluted water found in the streams, rivers and unprotected wells of rural areas of developing countries. Researchers are convinced the method is one that can be practised successfully by villagers with minimal supervision, and are now seeking to establish guidelines for the different exposure times required to ensure the sterilization of the bacteria.

"On average, five hours of sunlight renders almost 100 per cent of the bacteria harmless," says Mr. Ayoub, "but the precise timing will have to be worked out under pilot projects at the local level." In some cases, good results have been obtained with only two hours of exposure to sunlight.

The technique was pioneered in 1984 by a group of scientists at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon, led by Dr. Aftim Acra. His research, sponsored by Canada's International Development Research Centre and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), was partly prompted by UNICEF's concern that the beneficial effects of diarrhoeal rehydration salts may be lost if mothers used contaminated water to prepare the solutions. UNICEF and the World Health Organization advocate boiled or otherwise uncontaminated water for preparation of diarrhoeal rehydration salts. But in its absence, they advise using any available water rather than risk the consequences of not administering this life-saving cure.

Besides helping bring better health and saving rural women's time, the technique could lessen deforestation for fuel wood. "Why waste time and fuel wood by boiling water," asks Mr. Ayoub, "if villagers can purify their drinking water by putting it under the sun each day, and storing it by night?"

*Reprinted from the September 1990 issue of *Source*, a quarterly publication of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Twenty-eight African States ratify child rights convention

Africa leads the world in the number of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child by ratification. Seventy-seven countries have ratified the international child rights treaty as of 29 March 1991. Among them are twenty-eight African States, namely Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Zaire and Zimbabwe. The Convention is now part of international law and its provisions are legally binding on countries that ratify it.

A US mission to assess child welfare in Africa

A high level mission of the United States, led by Louis Sullivan, Secretary of Health and Human Services and Ronald Roskens, Administrator of the Agency for International Development (USAID), travelled to eight African countries in early January to assess child welfare and AIDS programmes. They visited Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe. In announcing the mission to Africa, USAID said it would focus on efforts to bring about improvements in child survival and in countering the impact of AIDS on mothers and children. Plans to send the mission were first announced by President Bush at the World Summit for Children. "Sadly there is another child killer loose in the world that knows no cure, AIDS, and nowhere is this killer taking more lives than in Africa. So I have asked Dr. Sullivan and Dr. Roskens to go to Africa to see what else America and the world can do to advance child survival across that continent," Bush said.

A Danish publication on child rights

'A Poem for Mama' by Kenyan writer Obiro Odhiambo and featured in the talent corner section of **AFRICAN KORA** Vol. 2 No.2, was reprinted in a recent book on children's rights. *Med abne ojne*, which translates from Danish into English as 'With open eyes', is the title of the book which was published by the Danish Committee for UNICEF in collaboration with the Danish Teachers' Association in **Copenhagen, Denmark**. The 135-page publication contains stories, poems and pictures from a number of developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The writers assert that the book is likely to popularize child rights and to give Danish children and grown-ups an understanding of how young people live in other regions of the world. The picture on the cover is that of Mozambican children performing a play 'The struggle against bandits' at the '7 de Abril' agricultural co-operative in Machava, near Maputo.

'A Poem for Mama' was originally featured in 'Little Amu and the Kobole', an anthology of stories and poems for children with survival and development as the underlying theme.

Parliamentarians adopt programmes for the African Child

A Parliamentary Programme for the Survival, Protection and Development of the African Child was adopted on 20 December in Banjul, The Gambia, during a regional parliamentary CSD Workshop for West Africa. Among recommendations formulated are those urging the improvement of health, nutrition, education and the legal status of children in the region. Participants in the workshop were over 20 members of Parliaments from 11 West African countries, 15 MPs from The Gambia, religious groups, NGOs and the media. Minister of Health and Social Welfare Louise Njie urged parliamentarians to "take noble challenge of ensuring that children's issues be put very high on their national agendas."

DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD



**A round-up of activities undertaken worldwide
for the commemoration of the Day of the African Child**

(16 June)

READER
FICHE

Day of the African Child

The Day of the African Child (DAC) will be commemorated on 16 June throughout Africa and many regions of the world. The 'Day', which was declared in a resolution adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) last July, is to be an annual event likely to provide a good opportunity to focus on the plight of Africa's children and the actions under way to meet their needs. President Museveni of Uganda, who is the current chairman of the OAU, has invited UNICEF to support the observance of that historic day. The date — 16 June — was chosen in commemoration of the massacre of Soweto children in June 1976.

In preparation of DAC, UNICEF held a briefing of international personalities on the weekend of 20-23 April. Participants included the Honorable Mamadou Diop (Mayor of Dakar), Professor Ali Mazrui (Political Scientist and Producer of the BBC/PBS series "The Africans"), Manu Dibango (the Paris-based artist from Cameroon), Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin (the Ethiopian poet and historiographer of Africa's preclassical culture), Roger Moore (the British stage, film and television actor) and Harry Belafonte (UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador). Highlights of the weekend briefing included a reception hosted by New York City Mayor David Dinkins at Gracie Mansion and a working brunch hosted by New York State First Lady Matilda Cuomo.

UNICEF is assisting African governments and National Committees in initiating and implementing activities related to the Summit goals and DAC. Solidarity activities are also being planned in industrialized countries and other parts of the world. Activities include children's parliaments and forums, government briefings, cultural and sporting events, gatherings of artists, intellectuals and other partners in the Grand Alliance for children.

The following progress report is

based upon information sent to UNICEF Headquarters up until 17 May.

PROGRESS REPORT

Preparation for the
Commemoration of the
Day of the African Child (DAC)
14 - 17 June 1991

ALGERIA

Under the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Algerian Government has set up a Special National Commission for the Commemoration of the Day of the African Child. The Commission is composed of representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health, Social Affairs, Local Governments, Youth, Information as well as Media, NGOs and UNICEF.

A substantial programme is in preparation, with involvement of the mass media, African Ambassadors and high level Government Officials. The outcome of the OAU Summit in Abuja, Nigeria, in early June, in addition to other child-related concerns, will be the focus of the celebration.

ANGOLA

International Children's Day on 1 June will be linked to the DAC with an information and cultural programme. The idea is to draw attention to the OAU recommendations and make the Convention on the Rights of the Child a reality for the Angolan Child.

BENIN

The newly formed Beninese Alliance for Child Survival and Development, which includes artists, intellectuals and communicators will be responsible for planning the events on behalf of DAC. The organization of a week of the Beninese Child in June is under way to coincide with the Day of the African Child. The Group of Artists and Intellectuals is planning a week of events to celebrate the Day of the Beninese Child.

BOTSWANA

Special emphasis will be placed upon the implementation of the Plan of Action of the World Summit for

Children through discussion with a group of NGOs to step up advocacy for children in Botswana.

BURKINA FASO

On 15 and 16 June, the Government of Burkina Faso will organize a national review of the state of the child during which there will be a general session and working-group sessions.

The consultations are expected to analyse the situation of women, mothers and children, define objectives and alternative strategies of the national plan of action for the implementation of the World Summit Declaration and Plan of Action, and identify appropriate social mobilization policy in favour of such implementation. The outcome of the working sessions will be utilized by the National Commission on the Child to establish sectorial plans of action for the decade.

The main organizers of the event will be: the Association of Journalists of Burkina Faso, the National Association of Artists and Intellectuals for Child Survival and Development, the Organization for the Safeguard of the Child, and UNICEF. Participants will include national and international NGOs and associations dealing with child welfare, as well as students of schools and colleges and their parents.

BURUNDI

President Buyoya, who has agreed to be the Ambassador for African Children in the Continent, will preside over a ceremony for the building of a "Public Garden for Children" in Bujumbura. The mobilization of the media, radio, TV and press to publicize children's issues such as the Rights of the Child, Health and Education are among other plans.

In addition, the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Relations are expected to take part in discussions on the Summit Plan of Action with NGOs and international organizations in June, in order to increase the advocacy effort.

CAMEROON

UNICEF Yaounde has already had several preliminary consultations with the Ministers of Health, Education and Social and Women's Affairs, Information, Youth and Sport, as well as reli-

gious leaders (Islamic Conference and Catholic Church), in connection with DAC activities.

CAPE VERDE

Since 1 June is observed as International Children's Day, efforts are being made to use that celebration to highlight the follow-up to the Summit Plan of Action.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

A group of artists and intellectuals is organizing the celebration of the DAC. Meetings and discussions are taking place to prepare a national programme of implementation of the Summit Declaration and Plan of Action, which will be reviewed and approved at a colloquium to be held for DAC.

CHAD

The government is expected to issue a decree on the Day of the African Child. In the meantime, preparatory activities are taking place including radio interviews with children, TV broadcast of relevant videos and an exchange programme between Chadian and Norwegian children.

CONGO

The Government, artists and intellectuals are planning a series of activities, with the support of UNICEF.

During the month of May information and materials relating to the condition of the African child will be distributed to Embassies, Government departments, international organizations, Specialized Agencies of the United Nations system, NGOs, Political Parties, Religious Groups and Cultural and Sport Associations.

From 26 May until 1 June, radio and television programmes will be reporting on the status of children in: nurseries, orphanages, and centres for abandoned children.

The Congolese child will be the theme of a radio and television broadcast aiming at sensitizing public opinion on child survival and development issues.

Children will be interviewed by radio and television on their condition, their environment at school, their relationship with parents and they will be

asked to express their wishes for the future.

On 15 June an official governmental statement by the Minister of Health and Social Affairs will be transmitted by radio and television.

In addition, the UNICEF representative will be interviewed on the morning of 16 June on the follow-up to the World Summit for Children.

A cultural and recreational event in support of children will also be organized on June 16 and a radio and television programme on child issues will be transmitted during prime time news that evening.

June 16 will also be celebrated as a multi-cultural and recreational event for children in the Congo.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Activities on 16 June will include various cultural events at the Palais des Congrès: a ballet and theatre performance organized by the Theatre Federation of Côte d'Ivoire, with the participation of young comedians. A music concert will be organized by the Association of Artists and Musicians of Côte d'Ivoire.

There will also be an exhibition by community associations working for children. Trophies and prizes will be awarded to the winners of the sports competitions.

Other activities will also involve religious leaders, through their prayers, music, liturgy and sermons.

A short film is being produced and will be shown on Air Afrique flights and at major cinemas in Abidjan.

Through the Ministry of Education, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Summit Declaration will be discussed in secondary and primary schools on 15 June.

ETHIOPIA

The Child, Youth and Family Welfare Organization (CYFWO) and the African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) are planning a two-day workshop that will focus on the Rights of the African Child during the week of 16 June. CYFWO is also planning to adapt the Convention on the Rights of the Child into Amharic and publish it for distribution that week. OAU, CYFWO and UNICEF are also

studying the possibility of a joint press conference on 17 June to promote DAC through the local media. The OAU will write to all Member States to remind them of the importance of DAC.

GABON

The 'Day' will be commemorated throughout the country, with UNICEF co-operation.

GAMBIA

Since 17 May is the Day of the Gambian Child, efforts are being made to use that celebration to highlight the objectives of the DAC. The theme this year will focus on child protection and advocacy for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The programme will include: a Presidential Address to the Nation, a symposium for school-children, radio panels in English and all national languages, as well as prayers in mosques and churches.

GHANA

The 'Day' will be observed in the following manner:

In the morning: a flag-raising ceremony involving children from African countries with diplomatic representation in Ghana, is to be followed by the hoisting of the OAU flag by the PNDC Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps. Children will celebrate the occasion with drumming, dancing and poetry recitals.

In the evening, there will be a national costume parade by children of African Embassies in Ghana. Participants will display national ornaments and artefacts and perform dances. Guests will include school-children and Liberian refugees.

GUINEA

The month of June has been declared as the month of the Guinean Child, to be commemorated throughout the country.

Activities will include: an official statement by the Government and a round-table on the OAU Declaration on the Decade of the African Child; the launching of a national language TV special production on the Convention on the Rights of the Child; special events promoted by CERAC, a national

NGO, to take place in Kindia, Guinea's maritime capital; a Conference in Forest Guinea Region (the Liberian children refugee area) on protecting child victims of armed conflict; and a festival of children's theatre on child survival messages in the city of Labe, promoted by a national NGO called the Association for the Cultural Revival of Labe.

GUINEA-BISSAU

A National Commission for Children, established by a government decree on 12 April, has been fully empowered to formulate and implement a national plan of action in support of the World Summit Declaration and Plan of Action. The Commission has accordingly been assigned to organize activities in support of DAC from 1 to 17 June.

Celebrations will start with a speech delivered by the Head of State and will include the production and the distribution of 6000 booklets on regional consultations held in preparation for the World Summit for Children; the publication of a National Anthology of Poetry for children, to be produced in association with the National Union of Writers; the launching of the 2nd Cartoon Series on the Rights of the African Child; as well as the launching of the English and French versions of the Guinea Bissau dossier for fundraising purposes.

Three programmes of the series introduced in 1990 "Children Our Responsibility", co-produced by Guinea Bissau TV and UNICEF, will be broadcast. The national newspaper will feature on a weekly basis a full-page report on children, while another paper, the "Comunitario Journal", will publish a special edition on Child Survival and Development issues.

Sport and cultural activities are being planned for 1 June, and a ceremony at the city stadium will be held on 16 June. Exhibitions of photographs and paintings will also take place.

KENYA

A national inter-disciplinary Committee has been established to coordinate and prepare for the commemoration of DAC. The Committee includes relevant government ministries

(Education, Culture and Social Services, Agriculture, Health, Information and Broadcasting, Environment and Natural Resources, Home Affairs), Office of the President, as well as NGOs and representation from the private sector. The month of June will be celebrated as the month of the Kenyan child and there will be major highlights between 14 and 17 June.

The activities will include a painting essay and poetry competitions by school-children, child-to-child activities, a children's symposium, and a children's marching band in the major streets of Nairobi.

In addition, children born on 16 June 1976 are being asked to compose a song on DAC, the longest serving traditional birth attendant (TBA)/midwife will be honoured, and an award will be given to a child in recognition of a special endeavour on behalf of a disabled child, caring for dying parents, or saving another child.

LESOTHO

Activities will involve all sectors of Lesotho community, i.e. religious groups, school-children, NGOs, Ministries of Agriculture, Education, Health, Information and Broadcasting, with UNICEF assistance.

The activities are planned for 10-16 June and will relate to the following themes: health, nutrition and education, legal rights of the Mosotho child, mobilizing political will for child survival and development programmes and a children's parliament.

LIBERIA

A declaration will be issued on 16 June by religious leaders from all denominations as well as the President. The President has also requested the establishment of a Commission to examine means of applying the Convention on the Rights of the Child, signed by Liberia in April 1990.

MADAGASCAR

The month of June will be celebrated as the month of the Malagasy child. The main theme will be the implementation of the Summit Plan of Action in Madagascar.

The Malagasy Government plans for 16 June, under the co-ordination

of the Ministries of Population and Culture, include a number of activities for children: a marathon in the six provinces of the island, a musical show by young musicians in the "Parc des Enfants d'Antanimena" and a special television musical programme called "Avoria" devoted to the children in Madagascar and Africa.

MALI

June 16 will be the first day of the National Children's Week, celebrated every year during the month of June. The week will emphasize on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and will concentrate on giving children a greater say in relation to children's issues.

The Prime Minister will preside over the commemorative festivities. A statement to the nation that will be made by Mali's Head of State will be followed by several events, namely, the planting of trees by students from primary and secondary schools; the restoration of the "children's wall" by artists and intellectuals, in collaboration with street children; the verification of the effectiveness of vaccination by children in health centres through a programme called "The Most Vigilant Centre"; and the creation of a widespread national information programme (named "People are listening") on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in collaboration with the country's Democratic Movement. Other plans include advocacy around the mobilization of health activities as well as an artistic evening for children, presided over by the Prime Minister.

MAURITANIA

The Executive Secretariat responsible for the promotion of women's issues has finalized the following programme for the commemoration of DAC:

On 15 June, the capital will be decorated with flags and posters and bouteroules. On 16 June an official ceremony will take place. Statements will be made by the Ministers of Education, Health and Social Affairs, the Executive Secretary of Women's Issues and the UNICEF Representative. Music and dances by children will follow

and the exhibition of children's drawings will end the session.

In the afternoon, two workshops will be held simultaneously and will be respectively chaired by the UNICEF Representative and the External Relations Representative of the Executive Secretariat on women's issues. The discussions will be on the Summit Plan of Action and the role of women in the development of the Mauritanian child.

A children's forum will be held on 17 June in the presence of a representative of the Head of State. The children will adopt a declaration to be delivered to a Government Official. Children will be awarded prizes for poetry, theatre and art works performed and displayed at the Forum.

A football match will take place in the afternoon of 17 June.

All the events will receive wide media attention, and children will be assisting journalists and cameramen in their coverage. The Executive Secretariat of Women's Issues has made sure that there is a substantive role for the children participating in all the different events and celebrations.

MAURITIUS

Preparations for the celebration of DAC are being planned by NGOs, in coordination with the National Children's Council (NCC) and the Ministry for Women's Rights and Family Welfare. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Summit Declaration will be the central themes for the celebration of the DAC, starting as of 15 May with a regional forum and activities aimed at mobilizing the community in support of child survival and development issues. Children will participate with poetry readings, dance and art work.

MOZAMBIQUE

A special prayer or sermon will be delivered by the leaders of different religious faiths. UNICEF has also proposed that religious leaders play the role of "evangelists for children" and adopt a set of messages to be carried to their members, who will in turn deliver them to the communities.

On Sunday 16 June an ecumenical celebration of DAC will include more than a score of church choirs. Several

choirs in the city are planning to compose a new song for the competition on a theme relating to the Day of the African Child: African children and Children First.

The editorial section of the major weekly newspaper, "Domingo", will be dedicated to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Summit Plan of Action. A series of articles on the situation of child rights in Mozambique will be launched.

Radio Mozambique has agreed to present a special programming between 1 and 16 June for children, including information on the rights of the child and health education messages for children. A popular radio game show, broadcast on Saturdays for adults, will be devoted to children and broadcast nationally on 15 June with questions, games and prizes relating to the purpose of the Mozambican Children's Day and DAC, Child's Rights, immunization, and basic health education. A daily radio programme on child survival issues will lead up to a radio quiz programme on 16 June.

There will be a full-page advertisement in 16 June newspapers calling attention to leadership of President Chissano in signing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Summit Declaration and Plan of Action, and soliciting public support to sustain the implementation.

The advertisement will be prepared as a "public service" by the UNICEF-supported Mozambican Journalists and Artists Forum for Children, and the space will be contributed by the newspaper.

NAMIBIA

Beginning 27 May through 1 June, a series of radio and TV press conferences, and interviews will be undertaken to mobilize the public for fundraising events.

On 1 June a fundraising dinner is being organized by the Child Survival, Protection and Development Foundation (CSPD) of the OPUWO Branch (Kaokoland) with the First Lady as Patron. The expected target to be raised is US \$20,000.

The following activities are planned to be undertaken from 3-8 June: screening of "A Day in Septem-

ber" on national television; continued mobilization of schools and churches for DAC; screening of UNICEF Windhoek film "Night to Hope"; publication of a series of CSPD/OAU initiatives in the local press; and a series of radio talk shows on CSPD.

Publicity on TV, radio and newspapers and radio and TV interviews on DAC will be carried out from 8-14 June. The First National Workshop on the Convention on the Rights of the Child will take place 11-12 June.

On 15 June, children will rally through the streets of Windhoek and assemble at the State House. A child will hand over the signed copy of the World Declaration to President Nujoma.

A National Day of Prayer will take place on 16 June, during which Churches and Synagogues will hold special prayers for the children of Namibia and Africa.

NIGER

Plans include a symposium on the Rights of the African Child with the participation of five national specialists on children's problems and children themselves. Poems and poster competitions are being planned for schools/colleges nation-wide on the Rights of the African Child and a special children's TV programme is also planned. A film showing is also planned, and will be followed by a debate on the rights and problems of the African Child. All events will be widely covered by the national media, including interviews with authorities.

NIGERIA

The OAU Declaration of 16 June as the Day of the African Child is highly welcomed by the Federal Ministry of Culture and Social Welfare. The Ministry is very receptive to the celebration of 16 June, and strongly believes that the celebration will provide an opportunity to highlight the needs of children in line with the World Summit Declaration and Plan of Action. The Ministry is asking the Government for authorization to plan, implement and co-ordinate arrangements for the commemoration of DAC.

UNICEF is collaborating with the Government on the Nigerian Children's Day Celebration scheduled

for 27 May. Advocacy opportunity for Children's goals for the 1990s and the World Summit for Children Plan of Action is envisaged.

RWANDA

The following activities are being planned: a symposium on 15 June at the Centre Culturel Franco-Rwandais. Participants will include Government officials and NGOs. The objective will be to exchange ideas on ways of integrating the global and sectorial objectives of the Summit in the daily activities of the different institutions; on 16 June, a round-table will assess and co-ordinate the actions that will be undertaken by the different participants at the national level.

Wide coverage is to be undertaken by the national press. An advocacy programme on behalf of the Day will be launched through radio spots to mobilize support for DAC.

An exhibit of projects relating to child survival and development will be held on 16 June. Plans are being made for broad dissemination of the activities and events in the Press after DAC commemoration.

SENEGAL

The Ministry of Women, Children and Family Affairs will organize several events and activities on 15-16 June, in collaboration with UNICEF, at the "Iba Mar Diop" Stadium. On 15 June the programme will include the launching of the "Baobab Game" on the Rights of the Child and a Children's Parliament. On 16 June, a Children's Conference with the theme on "African Integration" has also been planned. A play entitled "Aliou and Jean" on the life of street children, will be shown in the afternoon, and a concert by Youssou N'Dour, UNICEF Special Representative for the Performing Arts, will be held at 5.00 pm.

Extensive media coverage of these events and activities is planned. Several media productions will be undertaken during the week of 10-16 June. The mass media will play an important role in mobilizing public opinion in support of child development and survival issues through the transmission and broadcast of radio and television programmes devoted to DAC.

During the week of 10-16 June

the national newspaper called "Le Soleil" will publish every day a special report on the status of children. The report will include interviews with the Minister of Women, Children and Family Affairs and the UNICEF Representative.

A television programme on child issues will be broadcast during prime time news. Youssou N'Dour will be a special guest on the evening news on 16 June. The realization of an "Antenne" on the Convention on the Rights of the Child is under way. Radio programmes will be transmitted live throughout the country and will include the participation of the Ministers of Women, Children and Family Issues, the Minister of Tourism and Nature Preservation, the UNICEF Representative and Youssou N'Dour, the Director of the Islamic Institute, Parliamentarians of Diourbel, Islamic scholars, sociologists, the Directors of Institutions, and Representatives from the Ministries of Education and Health.

The programme is to be broadcast in French on 12 June and in Wolof on 10 June. A radio spot on child's issues will be broadcast every morning during the news from 10 until 16 June.

SIERRA LEONE

UNICEF Freetown reports that its proposed programme includes a children's forum, special prayers in mosques and churches, essay and poster competitions for schools and colleges, panel discussions and school rallies. Extensive media coverage of all activities and events is being arranged. The Office is also exploring the involvement of both President Momoh and the First Lady.

SOMALIA

Because of the situation prevailing in Somalia, UNICEF staff have been evacuated to Nairobi and therefore cannot help to prepare for a major event this year. Nevertheless, the Somali community in Kenya, consisting of NGOs, religious leaders, women groups, clan and political groups, has begun to organize a children's seminar or round-table discussion on the current civil strife in Somalia and the identification of peaceful solutions to

end the civil war in their country. If possible, children will represent the various clans involved in the conflict.

SUDAN

The following initiatives are under discussion with the Government: meeting of the National Council for Children; a round-table examining the issues of Education for All by the year 2000, and the role of communication in achieving the UNICEF 1990 goals; and the launch of the Sudanese version of Facts for Life with a policy statement by the Minister of Health.

The Sudanese Artist Union and UNICEF will sign an agreement on co-operation. A musical concert is under consideration.

SWAZILAND

Official statements will be broadcast on the occasion of the launching of the National Commission for Children, established as a follow-up body for the World Summit for Children. They will include interviews with the Ministers of Health and Education. A choir will perform songs especially written on the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), AIDS, Safe Motherhood and birth spacing. Other activities include: an art competition on the theme "The African Mother and Child", broadcasting videos on child related issues and mobilization of rural communities through the health motivator programme and the traditional healers organization. Also a press conference has been planned for 14 June. The version of Facts for Life in Siswati, a local language of Swaziland, will be launched during the month of June and leaders of all Christian groups have been requested to include the African Child theme in sermons on Sunday 16 June.

TANZANIA

The Minister for Community Development, Women's Affairs and Children, at a press conference on 3 April, urged all Tanzanians to observe the Day of the African Child in a befitting manner and to support and participate in the activities. The latter will include maternal and child health exhibitions and demonstrations, essay competitions by primary school children, feature articles in the local

press, radio interviews and panel discussions by children. Film shows will also be organized by UNICEF and the Tanzania Film Company. Activities will take place during 14-16 June and will be co-ordinated by an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee including Ministries such as those of Education, Information, Health, Regional Administration, Local Government, Parastatal Organizations as well as NGOs, Youth Leagues and Religious Institutions. Prominent business individuals have also been involved with the preparations. A Sub-committee has been formed in each ministry for proper implementation and follow-up.

The programme agreed upon will include: live radio programme for children; radio panel discussion on DAC and the Convention on the Rights of the Child; an essay competition on topical subjects, such as the Rights of the Child, education standards, health and the DAC; a photo and book exhibition; and a film festival. The production of T-shirts, car stickers, small brochures, posters and simple caps is also foreseen.

TOGO

The first task of the newly established "Togolese Association for the Promotion of the Child" (ATPC) will be the planning of the DAC commemoration. Togo will celebrate the DAC with a Conference on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Summit Plan of Action. Other activities include radio and TV programmes, prayers in churches, temples and mosques, performances of children's choirs, and children's rallies with the participation of the Minister of Youth and Sport. The World Summit film will also be screened at English and French cultural centres.

TUNISIA

Several events are being planned and supported by appropriate advocacy materials (films, video clips, documentation).

UGANDA

The Government of Uganda has requested the Ministry of Health to plan activities for DAC in collaboration with the Ministries of Education, Social Relief and Rehabilitation, In-

formation and Broadcasting and NGOs involved in Child Welfare Programmes.

"Progress of the African Child" will be the theme for the Day of the African Child celebrations in Uganda. Activities planned include an exhibition, songs, drama and speeches by school children. Special prayers are being planned by the religious leaders. Media coverage will commence during the first week of June and will focus on the situation of the Ugandan child with highlights on the achievements made in the Child Survival and Development Programme and the challenges for the future.

ZAIRE

A children's workshop is being organized by UNICEF and the African Press Association for Children. It will involve the participation of the media, committees of Artists for Children, communicators and NGOs. Discussion is to focus on the Rights of the Child and the goals set by the World Summit for Children Plan of Action. The workshop will also be used to launch a record and two video clips on EPI with Franco's orchestra and Bozi Boziana's Band. All media will be mobilized to broadcast a special radio and television programme and to publish articles dealing with children's issues from 11 to 16 June.

ZAMBIA

Activities planned for the DAC by the Department of Child Affairs with the collaboration of UNICEF include: the launching of a national version of Facts for Life, and performances by child groups throughout the country.

It is hoped that the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child will take place in time for 16 June 1991.

ZIMBABWE

The Government has established a National Committee responsible for co-ordinating the activities relating to DAC. It is composed of representatives of the President's Office, various Ministries, NGOs, party leaders, UNICEF, Save the Children Fund (USA), and church leaders. It is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Youth (Political Affairs).

Ten sub-committees have been

formed to organize a Children's parliament for 16 June. Each political constituency in Zimbabwe will be represented by a child, and a child President will be allowed to nominate members of parliament who do not represent constituencies but are drawn amongst disabled children, orphans, street children, the Blind and Junior Mayor Programme, the Youth Council and the Youth League.

The Children's Parliament will simulate a normal parliament session. It will be opened by the child president who will cover: achievements and progress made by Zimbabwe in promoting children's welfare since independence, current programmes and constraints, as well as future plans.

After the general debate, the child members of parliament will break into committees to discuss: children and economic development, children and health, children and labour, children and education, children and disablement, children and politics, children and religion and children and the law. The chairman of each committee will present recommendations to the Parliament. All recommendations will be compiled into a report which will be submitted to the National and Provincial Committees for their consideration and incorporation into development plans.

The Children's Parliament will include the participation of religious leaders, parliamentarians and the media. The participation of President Mugabe and the First Lady is envisaged.

The Day will be covered by electronic and print media. It is envisaged that this year's experience will be replicated at the provincial level next year.

Commemoration of the Day of the African Child outside Africa

AUSTRALIA

The Australian Committee for UNICEF has suggested exploring the potential for a satellite broadcast from Africa to Australia.

AUSTRIA

The Austrian Committee for UNICEF will discuss appropriate activities to be undertaken in Austria and

is offering to assist the US Committee with its own activities.

FRANCE AND ITALY

The French and Italian Committees are meeting with their respective Boards to discuss plans in support of DAC. The Italian Committee will celebrate Italian Children's Day on 25 May with a ceremony in the Auditorium Augustinianum of Rome, including a message by Italian children to be delivered to the OAU Summit in Nigeria through UNICEF.

GERMANY

Attempts are being made to link up with various musicians to dedicate their June concerts to the DAC and Africa in general.

JAPAN

The Day of the African Child will be mentioned in a full-page newspaper message advertisement to be published in "Asahi Shimbun", which is Japan's most influential national daily newspaper with a circulation of 8.1 million copies.

SWEDEN

UNICEF Day will be celebrated on 9 June by the Swedish Committee for UNICEF at Skansen, an open air museum in Stockholm. During the programme, a special focus will be given to the situation of the African Child and to the meaning of DAC. Mrs. Lisbet Palme, Chairperson of the UNICEF Executive Board will be the keynote speaker.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Fruitful discussions took place with the Board of Education in New York, the US Committee for UNICEF and prominent members of the media, including the *New York Amsterdam News*, several celebrities and the Regional President of the National Association of Black Journalists, for the various activities that are planned. The *New York Amsterdam News* has agreed to run a special 4-page supplement on DAC and to distribute it to the 50 major black newspapers in the United States.

The US Committee is planning to approach a group of mayors to form a nucleus to encourage other mayors of major cities in proclaiming DAC, to

contact the Congressional Sub-Committee on Africa to take a major role.

Mrs. Matilda Cuomo, wife of the Governor of New York, and a strong child advocate, took part in the DAC briefings and World Children's Day on Sunday 21 April. In addition to her own support for DAC, Mrs. Cuomo will ensure that the Governor encourages the Governors of other states to support the Day of the African Child. Mayor David Dinkins of New York City, has been a strong supporter of DAC and will encourage other US mayors to officially proclaim 16 June as the Day of the African Child in their city.

Mr. Mamadou Diop, Mayor of Dakar, who was one of the personalities of the New York briefings addressed over 1500 mayors and community leaders at the Annual Convention of the National Conference of Black Mayors in Cleveland, Ohio, called for the participation of African American elected officials in the Day of the African Child. Honoree Harry Belafonte made an appeal for Africa's children with a letter, distributed by the US Committee for UNICEF to each of the more than 300 African American mayors in the US, encouraging them to commemorate the Day of the African Child in their communities.

The New York City Commission for the United Nations and Consular Corps and Chemical Bank will be hosting a reception on 13 June 1991 in support of UNICEF and in celebration of the Day of the African Child.

NEW YORK BRIEFING FOR CELEBRITIES

Participating at the briefing were: Harry Belafonte, International Performer and Human Rights Activist, Julie Belafonte, Activist for Women and Children, Matilda Cuomo, First Lady of New York State, Manu Dibango, World-renowned musician from Cameroon, Mamadou Diop, Mayor of Dakar and President of the World Association of Mayors of Major Cities, Mamadou Lo, Technical Adviser, City of Dakar, Professor Ali Mazrui, Author of PBS/BBC series "The Africans" and Professor of the Humanities, State University of New York, Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin, Ethiopian poet and film-maker, Roger Moore,

International stage, screen and TV actor, Lisbet Palme, Chairperson of the Swedish Committee for UNICEF and Chairperson of UNICEF Executive Board, Paul Reeves, Head of Episcopal Church Centre and former Governor-General of New Zealand.

UNITED NATIONS EVENTS

At the United Nations, there will be a number of activities taking place on Friday 14 June. A Day of the African Child commemoration is being organized in Conference Room 4, from 10:00 A.M. until noon for invited classes of children from schools in New York City and other locations.

The Postal Administration of the United Nations will issue a UN Stamp on the Rights of the Child in New York, Geneva and Vienna, also on 14 June. The celebration of this event in New York will take place in Conference Room 4 at noon and it will be open to the public. Muppet favorites, Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy, will officiate at the celebration, and members of the Henson Family will also participate.

Audrey Hepburn will participate at the Geneva launching.

Coinciding with these activities will be a conference for teachers, organized by the New York State Department of Education and the US Committee for UNICEF. 150 teachers will witness the children's event from the Gallery of Conference room 4 and then continue their sessions at UNICEF House. Mrs. Matilda Cuomo will be guest speaker, and Djibril Diallo will make a presentation on the Day of the African Child.

Also planned for 14 June is an Inter-Faith Religious Service to commemorate Day of the African Child from 1:00-2:30 P.M. in the Chapel of the United Nations Church Center.

The appeal for follow-up actions to the World Summit for Children has triggered a wide range of activities in Africa. Heads of State and Government, artists and intellectuals, parliamentarians and religious leaders and other partners in the Grand Alliance for children are already proceeding with actions under Paragraph 34 of the Plan of Action at the national level.

Senegal responds to Summit Call

In Senegal, post-Summit activities are already under way. The Head of State President Abdou Diouf issued a presidential decree authorizing the establishment of a National Commission to follow-up on the World Summit for Children. The Commission is made up of representatives from ministerial departments which have responsibility for children's issues as well as non-governmental organizations, women's associations, religious leaders, journalists and people of goodwill. The Commission held its first meeting in October 1990 and initiated a series of activities.

Events included a National Week of the Child in December which focused on the rights of the child. "It was an opportunity to stress child rights and children themselves were actively involved in the working sessions," said Ndioro Ndiaye, the Minister for Women, Children and Family Affairs. The First Gala for the Child on 31 January was held under the chairmanship of the Head of State and the First Lady. The Gala was organized for the promotion and protection of the child and to generate funds to improve the living conditions of underprivileged children. It was attended, among other people, by the diplomatic corps in Dakar.

UNICEF is providing assistance in the preparation and production of a national plan of action for the child as put forward in the World Summit Plan of Action and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The National Commission, which will be operating in close collaboration with the Ministry for Women, Children and Family Affairs has the following objectives:

- To provide assistance to other African National Commissions in the implementation of their programmes to follow up on the Summit;

- To invite donors to reconsider their debt financing provisions;
- To encourage other African National Commissions in the formulation and negotiations of total or partial debt cancelling applications. The proceeds would exclusively be used to finance children's projects;
- To incorporate the child as the target in the design of international cooperation programmes;
- To disseminate information through a regular publication.

First Lady Elizabeth Diouf also presided over the official launching of the greeting card campaign of the UNICEF office. The launching ceremony, which was attended by ministers, parliamentarians and religious leaders, included a performance by children on the theme of the adoption of World Summit goals.

(Source: UNICEF Dakar)

Special report on Benin

ADVOCACY FOR MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH

Benin hosted a symposium of artists, intellectuals and communicators for child survival and development from 16 to 19 August 1990 in Cotonou. The four-day meeting in the economic capital of the West African State ended with the adoption of "The Cotonou Appeal", which according to a participant "must be looked upon as a call on mankind for a collective awareness-generating campaign on behalf of children." Some 300 participants from 17 countries, most notably journalists, film makers, poets and writers made a number of recommendations, including one calling for the establishment of a pan-African Alliance to group all the national support groups of artists and intellectuals for CSD.

"The time has come for us African artists, intellectuals and communicators to seize the opportunity to give children, our children, who are the most vulnerable among us, a helping hand," said Stanislas Adotevi, the UNICEF Regional Director for West and Central Africa. "The first result of the symposium was the mobilization of enormous energy for the cause of children. The cultural events and media coverage generated by the meeting have undoubtedly drawn the attention of educators, public and private decision makers, parents and the community as a whole to the importance of the protection of our children," said Karim Dramane, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports at the closing session.

A significant feature of the symposium was the active involvement of children, who marched throughout the city and organized artistic performances. The meeting was an opportunity to sensitize public opinion on the World Summit for Children. There were five working sessions during which participants debated the following themes: education of the child in urban and rural areas, the working experience of organizations providing assistance to children, the legal mechanisms for the integration and protection of the child, health factors in the growth of the child and finally the guidelines for setting up the Beninese Alliance for Child Survival and Development.

The symposium, the fifth in the series of regional meetings held within the framework of a large-scale social mobilization strategy in Africa, was presided by Albert Tevoedjre, the President of the pan-African Social Prospects Centre. The objectives were to bring together all creative talents for an active involvement in child-related issues, to use the media to draw the attention of political leaders and communities to the need to provide children with a better environment and protection and to consider the best possible way to contribute to the development process at the grassroots level.

We are pleased to reproduce hereunder "The Cotonou Appeal".

THE COTONOU APPEAL

Africa is at a cross-roads as we approach the year 2000. The challenges that she must confront are obvious: the debt burden, illiteracy, popular participation, democratization and the unprecedented and decisive choice of, on the one hand, regaining the cultural and human resources necessary to master her own destiny and, on the other hand, avoiding the misfortunes of under-development.

To invest in the child is a singular challenge for African States. Therefore we, the delegates and participants in the symposium of artists, intellectuals and communicators for child survival and development, held on 16-19 August 1990 in Cotonou have agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

- We are aware of the fact that we live in an unusual period characterized by an awakening of consciousness to the tragic situation of the child and particularly the plight of the African child, mothers, men and all those people of the continent who face economic hardship;
- We are convinced that each family must have the means to live and to grow with decency in a healthy environment;
- We are anxious that children should be given a real chance to know a better future, free of the scourges which affect contemporary societies;
- We are determined to unite our talents in order to make the progress of science and technology available to mankind;
- At this turning point in the closing years of the twentieth century, we would like to lay down a blueprint for the future by taking into account the human factor and the important participation of our people.

We declare that:

1. Nothing sustainable is likely to occur unless Africans themselves further examine their own history, ways of thinking and values and ethics of their civilization

which everywhere give priority to life, the family, the woman, the mother and the child.

2. The current situation of Africa is characterized by such a fast-paced process of urbanization that in the year 2000, 60 per cent of Africans will be living in an urban environment which is synonymous with human congestion, lack of support structures, culture shock and waste. In those conditions, children are likely to suffer the most.
3. All efforts must be undertaken to enable social communication to play a mobilizing role for the survival and development of the child, who is the cultural treasure and the best hope for economic development.
4. Hailing the child as the priority of priorities must not be a meaningless slogan but rather the focus of any development action.
5. Consequently, we must first mobilize the children themselves. They are always more responsible and inventive than we usually think.
6. More than ever, adults must be convinced that they have responsibility for the future of the child, especially in so far as they make decisions concerning allocating budgets to education and health, elaborating or implementing legal mechanisms for the integration and protection of the child and managing a healthy environment necessary for the full growth of the child.
7. Several factors, notably the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1997), the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child and various resolutions adopted during the last OAU Heads of State Summit and the World Summit for Children — all lead to the emergence of a new political will stipulating that society and the State must take their respective responsibilities vis-à-vis the child.

Our urgent appeal to African leaders, artists, intellectuals and communicators, to all men and women of goodwill is a call to rally for action for children, which must be undertaken in the framework of a large-scale social mobilization programme with the following goals: on the one hand, to prioritize child survival and development programmes in each country and, on the other hand, to elaborate strategies and social economic policies to organize ourselves in order to master the future and to invent our own future.

Cotonou, 19 August 1990
The Symposium

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A multi-lingual communicator

■ I am a mother, a teacher and a TV producer. I recently read for the first time a copy of AFRICAN KORA (March-April 1990). The quality of your newsletter, especially the lay-out and the contents are very impressive. Congratulations on a job well done. I also wish you good luck for the survival of your publication.

I currently produce a 30-minute TV programme 'Les Chandelles' geared towards 3-15 years old children. During my show, which examines the situation of children in Mali as well as in other parts of the world, youngsters are given an opportunity to speak out on their plight, to pinpoint responsibilities and to come up with solutions. The show is performed in French and in Bambara, a national language.

I am available to provide my modest cultural contribution in your advocacy efforts on the just cause of children.

Mrs. Tosso Diarra
Bamako, Mali

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from page 15

Cooperation in information sharing

■ Thanks for the July-October issue of **AFRICAN KORA**, the special edition on Africa and the World Summit for Children. I found it most interesting and I would be pleased to use some of its items in our publication: IAAH Newsletter — International Association for Adolescent Health. I hope that you have by now received the September issue of IAAH, in which **AFRICAN KORA** is mentioned.

I would be interested to obtain the accurate addresses of the National Support Groups of Artists and Intellectuals in Africa.

(Please write to the UNICEF office in each country where we now have a national support group of artists and intellectuals. Countries are listed in the newsletter's issue on the Summit.)

Dr. Murray Williams
Belconnen, Australia

The crusade of a model teenager

Continued from page 1

ties of daily life. After school, where she usually stays until 6:00 p.m., she cooks the family dinner. She often prepares meals for family members working in the fields, in addition to fetching water and collecting wood.

Only on rare occasions does the 'model' girl have an opportunity to play with friends who live in a neighbouring district. Like most girls of her age, she likes to listen to music. Her favourite music stars are Youssou N'dour, the

Senegalese artist who was recently nominated as UNICEF Special Representative for the Performing Arts and Kanda Bongo Man, another popular musician. Herself an ethnic Peul, Aminata likes speaking local languages such as Wolof and Mande. She also speaks fluent French and would like one day to learn English in New York.

Born in a family which is not rolling in money, Aminata lives in a district called 'Château d'Eau' (Water tower) in a compound with two huts, one of which is of concrete. The other hut, a one-bedroom unit, which also serves as a kitchen, is set amid sorghum and cassava plants. Her father Mamadou Diallo is a bricklayer. Bineta Diallo, her mother, is a housewife. Aminata, who is the eldest child in the family, has two sisters, Aissatou and Ramatoulaye, age 7 and 3. She also has a younger brother, Mamadou Selou, who is only three months old. He is her favourite.

The 'Adoption' strategy has often been carried out enthusiastically by teachers, students and other concerned individuals. In Salemata, a town located in the country's eastern region, a teacher said 35 boys and 13 girls among his pupils have 'adopted' 68 children. "It certainly has a pedagogical impact," said the teacher, who affirms that his pupils learn their lessons well throughout the process because they are treated like adults. In addition, the "Adoption" strategy encourages mothers to immunize their children. "Pupils keep on reminding mothers of appointments they have made...they also help them take the kids to the hospitals where vaccination sessions are held," he added.

In Fatick, in the country's central region, a doctor explained that immunization coverage increased substantially as a result of the youngsters' laudable efforts. Another teacher also indicated that the 'Adoption' strategy gave young people an opportunity to play an active role in development.

* This article has been adapted from 'La croisade d'une petite fille modele' (a model teenager's crusade) par M.S. Diagne (Le Soleil — Special Enfance) — September 1990.

Editor's note **AFRICAN KORA** to merge with **FIRST CALL**

Continued from page 1

the recent publications survey, plus an exchange of effective social mobilization, advocacy and fundraising experiences among field offices, National Committees, NGOs, artists, intellectuals and other partners. We look forward to receiving your continuing contributions: please address them to the Editor, **FIRST CALL**, DOI UNICEF H-9F, New York.

AFRICAN KORA, which was first published in March 1989, has chronicled innovative activities for child survival and development undertaken by artists and intellectuals. Concrete actions for children initiated by these partners include: modern or traditional communicators such as griots or local story tellers working for children, fund-raising activities, theatrical performances to popularize child rights and to explain and encourage the use of low-cost and high-impact medical techniques such as oral rehydration therapy and breast-feeding, production of audio-visual materials, painting of canvasses — all with one objective: to empower local communities with health knowledge.

For the past two years, **AFRICAN KORA** has attempted to facilitate debate and discussions among artists and intellectuals and other partners in the Grand Alliance for Children. The newsletter published stories of efforts by individuals, institutions, networks of influence and communities in order to create and to sustain the Child Survival and Development Revolution on the continent. The journal has played an important role as a melting pot for creative ideas and actions to advance the social mobilization strategy. Inspired by the dynamism of the Pan-African Committee, communicators throughout the continent are devoting their talents to the well-being of the African child.

COURTESY OF
UN Children's Fund [UNICEF]